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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: Your local high school students might never get to see their names up in lights. But with talent, luck, and determination, they might get to see their names in print--as winners in the World Almanac's high school records contest. As a way to recognize and reward teenage achievements (and undoubtedly to sell books), The World Almanac launched its first call for high school records in 1982; the winners were described in the 1983 edition. The record-setting competition is open to all junior high and high school students in the U.S. Students may submit achievements in three categories: academics, sports, and miscellaneous; under each heading, entries may be submitted as a group achievement or an individual achievement. The almanac's third contest now is under way, and the winners will be listed in the 1985 edition. The competition still is in its early stages, and "creativity," promoters say, "is encouraged. The range of entries is limited only by the imagination of the students." The current edition of the almanac includes entries for memorizing the greatest number of Beatles' songs and eating the most doughnuts in a 15-minute period. Junior high school students in Julesburg, Colo., assembled a 1,135-foot paper chain; Danielle Strieter of Alexandria, Va., had an undefeated tennis record during her freshman, sophomore and junior years at Groveton High School. Gary Beltowski of Rockville, Md., became one of the winners in the miscellaneous category by achieving a total score of 3,179,020 in Pac-Man. (Commented World Almanac editor Hana Lane: "Years from now, a Pac-Man contest will seem as silly to future generations as goldfish-eating competitions appear ridiculous to the youth of today. The records will, however, provide a social statement about our lives and the trends of the day.") As a school executive, you probably are more interested in having your students achieve in the academic category than in the Pac-Man point tally, but maybe each has its place. As the school year gets started, this might be the time to suggest students start working toward a new record-breaking entry in the number of aluminum cans collected for recycling--or some other record involving community service. If they go about it with determination, they can be double winners, with the satisfaction of a job well done and a pat on the back from The World Almanac. For information on submitting and verifying entries, write: Records, The World Almanac, 200 Park Ave., New York 10166. Advertisements to help publicize the contest also are available. (Author)

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